



SPIRITUAL FRONTIERS FELLOWSHIP

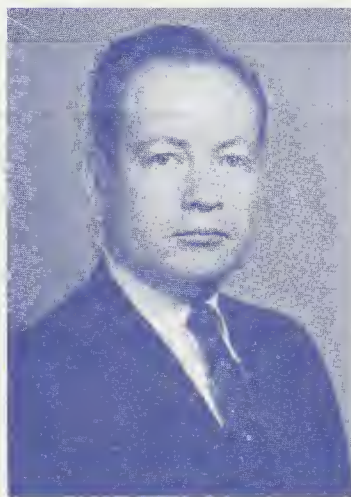
Newsletter

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED



ROBERT D. ERICSSON

SFF President Ross Sweeny announces that the Executive Council has enthusiastically approved the appointment of Robert Ericsson as Executive Director as recommended in a Personnel Committee report presented by Eugene Carter. The Committee states that Mr. Ericsson has been doing in his present position essentially the same type work needed by us. Mr. Ericsson will be in charge of all the business of SFF, under the direction of the Executive Council.

Mr. Ericsson was born in Chicago, January 17, 1929 and lives with his wife, Lila, and their four children at 6822 Knox, Lincolnwood, Illinois. His degrees are: LL.B. Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago; M.B.A. in accounting, University of Denver; A.B. Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

At present he is Chief Assistant Director, of the American Bar Association Traffic Court Program. His responsibilities include research and lectures on Judges and Prosecutors Responsibilities, National and Federal Standards for court, and studies for states and cities. He was 1969-70 Chairman, Illinois State Bar Association; Assistant Attorney General for State of Illinois in 1958; president of numerous other groups, member of several legal groups.

Bob has been a member of Spiritual Frontiers for a number of years and has seriously engaged in matters of spiritual growth. He is a former president of the Lutheran Church Men and did a great amount of speaking for churches in that capacity. He has assisted Paul Higgins for the past two years in healing services and has developed a considerable ability in healing. His interest in the spiritual life and in Christian growth led to his desire for work more spiritually significant. He has enjoyed his legal work and is good at it. We feel that he brings much of business experience and training, plus his own spiritual interest and growth, which should make his work with Spiritual Frontiers of great significance for him and us.

We welcome Bob Ericsson as our new Executive Director beginning July 1st. It is our belief that rapidly changing events in the world, and important questions being raised by youth and adults about the meaning and purpose of life, puts Spiritual Frontiers in the position of being able to perform most significant service at this time in history. We should have a fantastic growth in the next few years.

The Executive Council has made some most interesting plans using the combined talents of Dr. Marcus Bach and our new Director, Bob Ericsson. Our possibilities are unlimited!

THE 1970 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tremendous, overwhelming, simply wonderful - were but a few of the superlatives. The Conference was outstanding beyond all expectations! From Thursday afternoon, May 14th, when Mr. SFF himself, The Rev. Arthur Ford, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd filling the 1,500 seat Chicago Temple sanctuary, through Saturday morning the "star studded cast" of seven additional speakers did their outstanding best. Diane Pike, George Ritchie, Martin Ebon, Allen Spraggett, Walter Houston Clark, Harold Sherman, and Marcus Bach were each warmly and enthusiastically received. Each contributed unselfishly of time and talent. Most assisted during the workshop periods where others, many prominent in their own right, also contributed greatly. It was a full program. But a prominent pastor who was present for most of the sessions was heard to say that here was quality as well as quantity. A general enthusiasm could be sensed. SFF, having long ago left its infancy, was now really coming of age! The high caliber of this program could not be denied - and there were exciting plans for new ventures, new and "dressed up" publications, new ways to spread the "word". One lady gleefully reported that here she had spent three days in church and had never had so much fun!

Conference registrants came from far and wide. There was a man from Japan with his lovely interpreter, both sometimes seen in "national" dress. Others came from Alaska, Puerto Rico, many Provinces of Canada - and from some 33 states. Actual numbers can only be estimated - surely well over the 1,500 seating capacity - as some left early and others came late.

Between sessions yellow-badged Frontiersmen were seen strolling on the Civic Center Plaza where astronauts and protesters, labor groups and race marchers had also trod - where Chicago's Picasso statue enigmatically gazes across the street toward the doorway of the Temple. Those same yellow badges were seen in restaurants, hotel lobbies, and elevators. With only this as an introduction smiles were exchanged, new friends made. The word "spiritual" peeped from literature and was heard, almost incongruously, on crowded "worldly" city side-walks. The cold and the rain could not dampen the "spirit". And in many a hotel room far into the wee hours there were buzz sessions, impromptu sittings, healing services, prayers.

One who especially enjoyed the Conference perhaps expressed the feelings of most when she borrowed from Martin Luther King and sighed, "I have been to the top of the mountain".

The Newsletter of Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship is published ten times a year (monthly except July and August), by the Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship, the office of which is at 800 Custer, Evanston, Illinois 60202. Members of SFF receive the Newsletter by virtue of membership. Second-class postage paid at Evanston, Illinois.

OTHER CONFERENCE BUSINESS included election of officers and a new "class" of Executive Councilors.

Elected for a two-year term were:

President: The Rev. Ross K. Sweeny, Riverside, Illinois; United Methodist minister; active leader in SFF for years; for a second term as President.

Vice-President: Mr. Curtis G. Fuller, Lake Forest, Illinois; publisher of FATE magazine and other periodicals; former treasurer of SFF.

Vice-President: Mr. William Holes, St. Cloud, Minnesota; President of Holes-Webway Co.; chairman SFF finance committee.

Secretary: Mrs. Joan Kimmel, Phoenix, Arizona; Teacher, lecturer, spiritual leader; for second term as SFF secretary.

Treasurer: Mr. Roland Rodrock Randall, Philadelphia, Pa.; Real estate counselor; former SFF Executive Council member.

To serve on the Executive Council for the 1970-73 term are:

The Rev. L. Richard Batzler, Defiance, Ohio; Chaplain, Defiance College; former Vice-President SFF.

Mr. Sheldon Blazier, Muncie, Indiana; Businessman; chairman SFF Muncie Area.

The Rev. James M. Flanagan, Florissant, Missouri; Disciples minister and editor; former Vice-President SFF.

Mr. Harry (Bud) Hayes, Miami, Florida; partner in Graham, Hayes & Associates; leader SFF youth groups.

Mr. Laurence T. Heron, Homewood, Illinois; Newspaper writer and editor; former editor GATE WAY; SFF group leader.

Mrs. Lowell Hoit, Chicago, Illinois; former concert singer and spiritual teacher; charter member SFF.

The Rev. Robert Lewis, Haddon Heights, N.J.; Episcopalian Rector and SFF worker and writer.

The Rev. Milton Nothdurft, Sioux City, Iowa; United Methodist minister; formerly on SFF Executive Council.

to fill a vacancy 1970-72:

The Rev. George Wright, Waterman, Illinois; United Methodist minister; former President of SFF.

LESSON SERIES INTERRUPTED....to make room for greater coverage of the events and decisions surrounding the Annual Conference. Some of these are akin to the usual lesson and therefore appropriate on this page.

Among the innovations at the Chicago Conference was the introduction of a PSYCHOGRAM prepared by our new Director of Special Projects, Dr. Marcus Bach. This original and unique approach to a better understanding of the paranormal field was described by the author as "an instructional contact-piece designed to unite the members of SFF into a closer fellowship-of-thought and experience," and also to "attract potential new members into the fellowship of understanding".

The demand for copies of this first PSYCHOGRAM left no doubt about its effectiveness. Area Chairmen asked about getting copies in quantities. Ministers decided these would be excellent public relations pieces for church literature tables in their churches and for general distribution.

Soon each member of our SFF movement will receive a PSYCHOGRAM in a separate mailing with the opportunity to obtain additional copies. Dr. Bach is planning future PSYCHOGRAMS based on a series involving Arthur Ford, creative scientists and dramatic psychic experiences. We feel this unusual approach will open an entirely new field of interest and will stimulate increased membership in SFF, to say nothing about providing exceptional material for all of our affiliates. Watch for the PSYCHOGRAM!

Additional copies may be ordered from the Evanston office at 15¢ apiece postpaid.

NEWS NOTES

Nebraska Chapter - on September 7th the Rev. William V. Rauscher, SFF Executive Councilman and Chairman of the Publications Committee is scheduled to speak on "Prayer and Communion with the Other Side".

Dr. Marcus Bach has continued his busy pace since the Conference. He has spoken to enthusiastic audiences sponsored by SFF Chapters in Charlotte, North Carolina and Los Angeles, California. He continues to challenge his hearers to "get going on new frontiers" and to keep their sights high.

Tapes of the Annual Conference may be purchased by contacting Rev. Frank L. Considine, Box 245, Corwith, Iowa 50430. Prices are \$5.00 for a 1,200 foot (2 hour) reel, or \$6.00 for 1,800 feet (3 hours). Specify the lectures of your choice. NOT available in cassette.

This year's Annual Retreat is scheduled for July 5 - 11 at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota using the theme "Psychic Phenomena and Immortality". Leaders will be Irene Hughes, Dr. Marcus Bach, Dr. Shafica Karagulla, Rev. Dorothy Moore, Rev. Katie King and Mr. and Mrs. Bud Hayes. Total cost for a week's food, lodging, and "entertainment" is only \$80. Registration forms were in the May NEWSLETTER or may be secured from the Evanston office.

DEFINITION OF DR. BACH'S WORK FOR SFF

Dr. Marcus Bach will write creative lesson materials for us and assist in developing work with Study Groups. Since we are planning more work by Regions, seven in all, it is our plan to have Dr. Bach visit each Region during the coming year. We are thinking that he will give a lecture, at the most central spot within a given Region, to which the members and prospective members may come. The location would be decided by Dr. Bach and the Area Leaders. While he is present, he can meet with Area Leaders and Study Group Leaders and give them some training in their work. We feel that such a person as Marcus Bach can stimulate great interest in those geographical locations and make possible the formation of still other new Areas.

Dr. Bach is working with SFF only part-time, so his work does not involve extensive speaking engagements in various Areas, but only as outlined above. For those desiring his speaking, this must be arranged between the Area Leader and Dr. Bach, with the Area paying his travel expense and honorarium, since this is not a part of his assignment with SFF. We hope that this will clarify his work and how you may have him speak for you. He is usually booked quite far in advance and arrangements must be made well in the future.

Ross K. Sweeny

DR. BACH AT WORK

Unnoticed by the huge crowds attending the publicized sessions at the Chicago Conference were committee meetings, council sessions and special conferences called by President Ross Sweeny. One of the most significant of these was an enthusiastic get-together of some thirty Area Chairmen who met with Marcus Bach to discuss new and constructive guidelines for the national SFF program.

Plans were laid for regional workshops, special lectures and new and usable monthly study courses with a target date for early fall. Dr. Bach said, "The basic aims and purposes of SFF stand as stated in the original charter, but the contemporary age demands a broader base. Our interest in psychism and para-normal insight cannot be isolated experiences unrelated to the challenges facing the church and the world. Nor can we avoid a re-evaluation of our role in the scheme of things."

Later in his talk at the closing session he defined in greater detail some of these objectives: 1) Our recognition that spiritual truth and scientific truth are basically one; 2) The use of supra-normal phenomena as an actual emanation of a "power for good."; 3) The recognition of relevant new frontiers as SFF enters the new decade of the amazing '70's. Great enthusiasm and response greeted these statements and plans.

A Year End Review

Continued growth and expansion in a number of significant ways favored the Fellowship during this fourteenth year.

Membership is now over 6,000. Non-member subscribers to the Journal add 350 more names, many being libraries, both theological and public. There are members in every state in the union, many foreign countries, and, though sparse in places, in every continent on the face of the earth!

While still retaining our Christian emphasis we are interdenominational in scope and inter-faith in pursuit of our ultimate goal as shown by the wide diversity of church affiliation of our members. Most Christian denominations are represented. There has been an especially large influx of Roman Catholics the past year into what had been a largely Protestant organization. There is a "goodly sprinklin" of Jewish members and a few Buddhists. Joining in substantial numbers, too, are those seekers who do not belong to any organized church.

Financially it was a good year - we finished well in the black! A sincere thanks to all who made this possible. Partly because of this practical demonstration of financial stability and partly because of sheer faith and necessity the Council was encouraged to add late in the year three new paid members to the staff, the Executive Director, the Director of Special Projects, and an additional office worker. This expansion will require continued financial efforts.

During the year there were gifts of property to SFF stimulating dreams of retreat centers of our very own. Fifty organized Areas or Chapters contributed immeasurable to our outreach. A Procedures Guide for Study Groups was published; a highly successful week-long retreat held in Minnesota; and plans were completed for a historic first SFF tour to England and Scotland. Appropriately climaxing the year's activities was the Annual Conference, by far the largest yet in the annals of Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship.

This is the final NEWSLETTER of the year. We'll be back with you again in September.

Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship Newsletter

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